



Identifying Fraudulent and Fake Driver Licenses

On a warm summer evening, Sean Thomas is stopped by two troopers from the Michigan State Police. He is checked in the Law Enforcement Information Network and, when it is learned his record is clear, he is written a citation and let go. Four months later, he is stopped again, this time by a Wayne County Deputy. The deputy goes through the same procedures, and again a citation is issued.

Two months later, Sean Thomas again meets the Michigan State Police. This time, however, he encounters two troopers whose specialty is identifying false identification. He goes through the routine, producing vehicle information and his driver license. A few minutes later, Sean Thomas finds himself in custody. Later, a fingerprint check shows that Sean Thomas is actually – Maurice Brandy. He is now facing life in prison for 4 felony warrants. Maurice Brandy

is wanted for murder and attempted murder for shooting at 2 Michigan State Police Troopers in 1998.

Maurice Brandy thought he had figured out the system. He didn't expect to meet two police officers who had done their homework. Troopers Nate Johnson and Gabe Covey had discovered a new system in fighting an evolving problem – identity fraud.

A New Procedure Is Developed

In March, 2001, Troopers Johnson and Covey came to Sgt. Mike Krumm of Michigan State Police Training Division for assistance. When Sgt. Krumm first heard about a new program on Fake IDs, he figured it was about college kids trying to buy alcohol. What he learned after talking with the troopers blew him away. They had figured out a way to investigate both counterfeit and fraudulently obtained Michigan driver licenses. The results were multiple

arrests for drug trafficking and multiple other felonies. This was far from minors trying to buy alcohol – this was violent career criminals using fake IDs to hide their identity. As a patrols instructor, it became an immediate

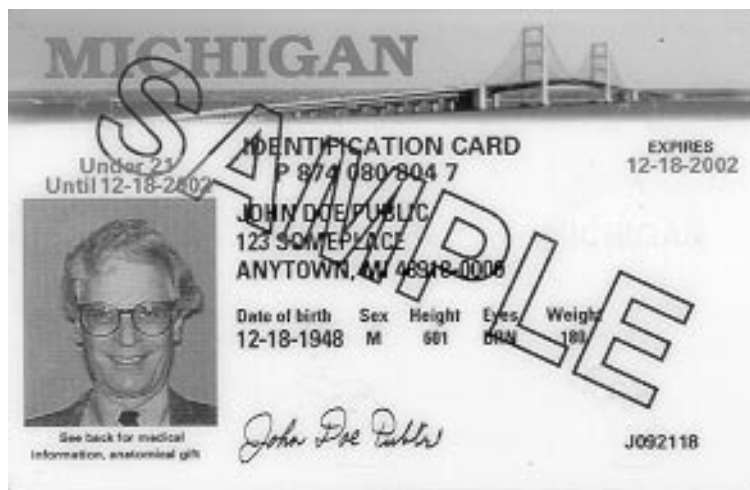
priority that Sgt. Krumm provide this information to other police officers.

The impact was almost immediate. On 8/1/01, one of the first classes was delivered to the personnel at the MSP Detroit Post. In the audience that day was Lt. Marty Bugbee. On 9/13/01, two days after the terrorists attack on our country, Lt. Bugbee had been called up to serve as a reservist at Selfridge Air Base. While working patrol, an individual was spotted taking multiple pictures of the air base operations. When confronted, the suspect produced a Michigan driver license and other paperwork. He was of Middle Eastern descent and stated he had become lost. He saw the base and began taking pictures. Lt. Bugbee arrived on the scene and was able to identify the license as a fraud. This individual was arrested and turned over to the FBI.

Fraudulent and Fake Licenses

Identity theft and false identification is not a new phenomenon. It has been around for many years and has been used by a variety of individuals. What has changed, however, is the technology that is now readily available to produce false identification. With the mass use of computers, scanners, and photo print software, the ability to create a fake ID is very easy. To counter these high tech forgeries, many states have increased the number of security features on their driver

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licenses, and Michigan is no different. Michigan is the first state (in the world) to use PolaPrime on their driver licenses. PolaPrime is an ultraviolet ink which will fluoresce in multiple colors when viewed under a black light. Michigan also has numerous other security features that officers may use to identify a false license.

Being defeated on counterfeits or fake licenses, criminals would prefer to fool the Secretary of State into giving them a real driver license. They obtain a license by faking their identity, and then are issued a real license with false information. It is this type of license that may explain why Maurice Brandy was stopped and let go two times before running into Troopers Johnson and Covey. Most police officers have simply not been given the training necessary to identify this type of fraud.

How To Recognize Fake Licenses

Each state's driver license has different security features built into them. Many "retail" publications assist law enforcement in recognizing these security features. The problem is the criminals are also aware of these publications and are able to use the information to make forgeries. Fortunately, not everything is listed in these publications.

For example, in Michigan, we have developed a 4-step test to identify

a counterfeit license. The officer is given 4 specific areas to look at to determine whether or not the license is authentic. A common publication, "The ID Checking Guide," only lists one of the four security features.

How To Recognize Real Licenses With Fraudulent Information

A fraudulent driver license is created when someone completes an application for a driver license using fraudulent information. This is done by stealing someone else's personal information, by presenting false information and claiming to have lived in another state or country, or by paying off a worker at the licensing bureau to have a fake identity created. Whatever method of fraud used, there are tools a law enforcement officer can use to fight this problem.

In Michigan, Trooper Johnson met with the Secretary of State enforcement personnel and developed a formula for identifying fraudulently obtained driver licenses. While all the secrets won't be revealed here, the process includes looking at the type of license issued, the date it was issued, and the age of the individual. Officers also consider traditional "interdiction indicators" and the "totality of circumstances" surrounding the contact. Once this is established, a series of questions are asked to identify when a suspect is lying about his or her identity. It is this questioning which will ultimately

lead to the arrest or release of the suspect.

This comprehensive procedure has given impressive results. Over a two-week period, six Michigan State Police troopers working in two officer units satisfied 30 felony warrants that were all hidden behind fraudulently obtained driver licenses. On May 22, 2002, Troopers Johnson and Covey arrested an individual for a fraudulently obtained license. A subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of the license supplier and multiple warrants satisfied.

Catching Common Criminals And Terrorists

Recently, Sgt. Krumm was able to deliver this training to 45 federal agents representing the FBI, DEA, USCS, USPS and USSS. He talked to a senior agent, and to the best of the agent's knowledge most terrorist suspects in the United States have made use of fake IDs. By the end of the training session, it was determined that not one of the federal agents in the audience was previously aware of the information provided. It is obvious that identifying fraudulent and fake IDs has become a significant element to apprehending both terrorists as well as many serious felons. Sgt. Krumm would be glad to set-up training seminars for police officers and pass on what has been learned. For more information, call Sgt. Mike Krumm of the Michigan State Police Patrols Training Unit, 517-322-5595.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
School of Criminal Justice
The Nation's Oldest Degree Granting Criminal Justice Program

Using Police Training For College Credit

The Michigan State Police Training Academy is pleased to announce that Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice, proctored the Michigan State Police Leadership Development program and approved it for 3 college credits, either undergraduate or graduate, after meeting criteria. College credits will be offered beginning with the August program. The Michigan State Police Train-

ing Division will continue to work with colleges and universities to accredit its training programs for specific college credit to assist police officers with their education goals. For more information, contact Terri Russell of the MSP Training Division Career Development Section, 517-322-5174.

Investigating Fraud and White-Collar Crime



Ever since the Enron scandal heightened government attention to corporate fraud, record numbers of white-collar corruption cases have been reported. "White-Collar Crime" is a term that was coined by Sociologist Edwin H. Sutherland to describe the corporate corruption that initiated the Great Stock Market Crash of 1929. The FBI now uses "white-collar crime" to describe any fraud that results in the obtaining of money, property, services, or business advantage, through the methods of deceit, concealment, or violation of a trust.

Overall, it is estimated that 6% of revenue in 2002 (\$600 billion) was lost as a result of some form of occupational fraud. On top of this, scam artists hit Americans with fraud schemes that range from charity deceptions to identity theft. The new scam, internet fraud, tripled sharply in 2002, with the FBI reporting more than 48,000 complaints referred to prosecutors. Fraud is the fastest growing crime in America.

The Officer As First Contact

Despite the many high profile cases handled by the FBI, most fraud and white-collar investigations are handled at state and local levels of government – it's the treasurer of the local church committing extortion, the scammer using kids to collect for a fake char-

ity, the small business owner taking money under the table to avoid paying taxes, or the stock-person absconding merchandise from the storeroom. Unfortunately, many police officers are not trained to deal with fraud or white-collar

crime. Untrained officers mistakenly send away complainants with a, "Oh, that's civil – you need to get an attorney." Then the complainant goes away mad, and the police may have missed a valuable opportunity to catch a bad guy.

Whistleblowers from within organization and public victims of scam operations are usually confused and afraid when it comes to fraud, and are counting on local law enforcement to at least guide them in the right direction. Whistleblowers often fear retribution if they report their own employer. The elderly are especially vulnerable and embarrassed, and fear the loss of their autonomy if family members perceive they can no longer make "sound" financial decisions. Police need to be sensitive to all these issues and work patiently with fraud victims. By using psychological first aid, we can remove emotional roadblocks that separate us from the information that we need to pursue the perpetrator.

Utilizing Police Specialists

Given training and experience, many fraud and white-collar cases can be investigated entirely by regular police officers. However, complex cases will obviously require larger resources, such as computer or accounting expertise. Specialized units have the ability to "follow the money trail;" rather than

just focusing on single offenses they can identify conspirators and prosecute for tax evasion and money laundering. But many of these complex cases originate at the local level and rely on the originating officer's ability to recognize that a bigger crime is occurring. If you suspect that a fraud case is bigger than what meets the eye, or you're not sure how the case should be handled, check with your local Prosecuting Attorney, or call the Michigan State Police Criminal Investigation Division which has these specialized units that can be of assistance:

- **Computer Crimes Unit, 1-877-5CYBER3.** The cyber-tip hotline also handles calls that fall into the Internet Crimes Against Children criteria. Information received via this telephone tip line is also shared with appropriate local, state and federal agencies.
- **Tax Enforcement Team, (517)336-3422.** The Tax Enforcement Team works closely with other agencies to investigate all aspects of tax fraud, both criminal and civil, including sales tax, use and withholding tax, single business tax, homestead property tax, individual income tax, motor fuel tax, and tax credit claims.
- **Major Case/Organized Crime Unit, (517)336-3437 Lansing, or (734)525-4535 Detroit Area.** The Criminal Investigation Division provides investigative services for local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in 73 Michigan counties. The Major Case and Organized Crime Units can assist with white-collar fraud and identity theft cases.

If it's determined that the matter is best handled by a State regulatory agency, check the Michigan Attorney General

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"Consumer Protection Complaint Directory" at www.michigan.gov/ag/. Here you will find appropriate agency contacts, as well as a complaint form. Police agencies can contact the Michigan Attorney General at:

- **Michigan Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, 1-877-765-8388.** P.O. Box 30213-7713, Lansing, MI 48909, Fax: 517-241-3771.
- For Environmental Crimes, call the **Natural Resources and Environmental Quality Division, (517)373-7540.**

- The **Health Care Fraud and Patient Abuse Division** can be contacted at: P.O. Box 30218, Lansing, MI 48909; Email: hcf@michigan.gov; Fax: (517) 241-6515.

REMEMBER!

STOPPING FRAUD IS EVERY COPS RESPONSIBILITY! ALWAYS DOCUMENT as much information as you can in the original complaint, THEN your department can decide how or who should investigate it. The nature of crime is changing, and police must meet the challenge!

Sources for additional information on fraud: National Fraud Information

Center www.fraud.org; the Fraud Section of the US Dept of Justice www.usdoj.gov/criminal/fraud.html; the Financial Crimes Section of the US Secret Service www.treas.gov/usss/index.shtml; the Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Consumer Protection www.ftc.gov; the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission www.sec.gov/consumer/cyberfr.htm; Association of Certified Fraud Examiners www.cfenet.com/splash; National White Collar Crime Center www.iir.com/nwccc.htm; Federal Bureau of Investigation Financial Crimes Section www.fbi.gov.



Reducing the Likelihood of Police Vehicle Crashes

In more ways than one, law enforcement officers put themselves at risk every day they go to work. Of the 147 police officers that died in the line of duty in the year 2002, 44 perished in automobile crashes. Due to police officers spending so much time on the road, they are three times more likely than average to be involved in a traffic crash. Driving defensively could be one way to assist police officers in staying safe while driving.

We recognize that police must put themselves in dangerous situations, sometimes beyond their control. But well trained police officers often find ways to prevent crashes where others could not. So let's establish the definition for defensive driving: It is the ability to operate your vehicle in such a manner as to avoid involvement in a "preventable" crash, no matter what the road or weather conditions. This usually means employing some type of evasive maneuver, or stop, in time to prevent getting involved in a crash. The officer should always anticipate the other driver's next move, not waiting to react to it. ALWAYS EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED. You never know when someone is going to disregard a stop sign or traffic signal, or when you will encounter the next drunk driver.

The Smith System of Defensive Driving is a fundamental tool police officers utilize to stay safe on the road. The Smith System has the following basic components:

• Aim High In Your Steering

- Don't focus too close to the front of your vehicle
- In urban areas you should look 1-2 blocks ahead, on freeways and rural areas up to ½ mile ahead

• Keep Your Eyes Moving

- Visually scan everything to the front, sides and rear of your vehicle. This produces the following benefits:
 - Enhances your peripheral vision
 - Prevents highway hypnosis
 - Reduces over-concentration
 - Reduces physical and mental fatigue
 - Increases powers of observation

• Get The Big Picture

- Double check intersections
- Watch for pedestrians
- Watch other drivers to predict their next move

• Leave Yourself an Out

- See potential hazardous situations



- Establish a space cushion
- Plan evasive maneuvers
- Time the execution of maneuvers

• Make Sure They See You

- Establish eye contact with the other driver
- Signal your intentions well before execution
- Use horn and lights
- Avoid the other driver's blind spot
- Head-check your own blind spot

The whole premise behind defensive driving is to protect the public and go home at the end of your shift. The Smith System of Defensive Driving just touches the surface of what police need to know to be safe drivers. The Michigan State Police Precision Driving Unit offers several advanced police driving programs. For more information call Gina at 517-322-1782.



Optimal Survival and Performance Under Extreme Duress

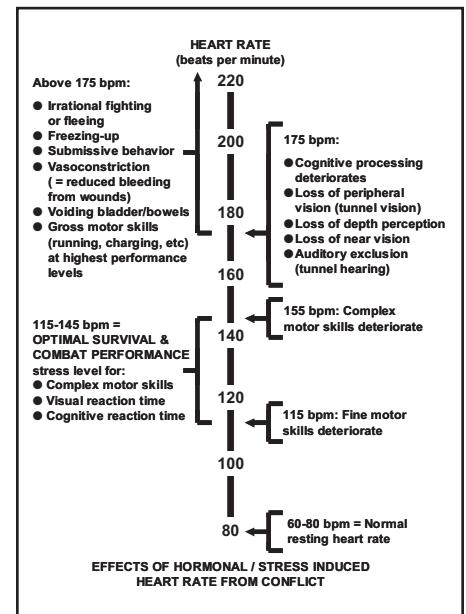
Retired West Point Psychology Professor, Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, states: "If I want to inoculate you against a stressor, I have to give you a dose of that stress – but it has to be precise! We want police officers to respond to an actual hostile situation just as cool as they would in training."

By surviving simulated experiences, and surviving again and again through repeated training, police officers develop "optimal survival and performance" abilities. A poorly trained officer reverts to an uncontrollable emotional response, making them vulnerable, or prone to excessive use of force. (See the heart rate chart.)

One of the most stressful situations a police officer can experience occurs when someone tries to take your gun and use it against you. A suspect resisting arrest can quickly become a ground fighting or wrestling confrontation, and increasingly, we see combatants going for the gun – and in an instant you're in a fight for your life! Fortunately, there are several "Dynamic Weapon Retention Drills" that Use of Force Instructors can use to prepare their officers. Officer survival is the test. Winning includes, at the least, securing control of the gun, and then breaking away from the attacker or using the appropriate force.

Remember, stress inoculation is very specific.

Grossman cites an extraordinary DT instructor that had stress inoculation for unarmed combat that was off the scale. However, in his first Simunitions experi-



ence his heart rate shot up to over 200 bpm and he dropped his gun. However, his previous stress inoculation allowed him to quickly adapt, and by the end of the day he was performing superbly. For more information on weapon retention and ground fighting, contact Sgt. Kevin McGaffigan of the Michigan State Police Defensive Tactics Training Unit, at 517-322-5588.

Recovering From Residual Adrenaline

Have you ever sat on the edge of your bed at night with your mind spinning, your heart pounding and your body raring to go? That is what residual adrenaline does to you. And that's not good. Residual adrenaline is hazardous to your body, and destabilizing to your mind.

A recent report sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health found that police have different stress problems compared to many other emergency workers. Soldiers, for example, usually endure "infrequent" but "prolonged" hours of exertion, but they usually don't have any problem burning off their adrenaline. Police officers, on the other hand, tend to endure more "frequent" stress, getting the same adrenaline rush flooding through their body, but they usually resolve the situation in a relatively "short" amount of time. This leaves the police officer with hot (dangerous) adrenaline still surging through

their body. Now little things start to get to you, and as you lose control of routine day-to-day stress you're made more vulnerable to big traumatic events.

To burn off adrenaline, conduct calisthenics, go for a long run, or lift weights. Often that is all you need to sleep well and stay rested. Dave Grossman quotes an associate, retired police officer Loren Christensen, who would punch and kick a heavy bag until he had burned off his adrenaline, then he would sleep great and awake feeling mentally and physically ready to face a new day. Some of his partners preferred to drink alcohol after a high-stress day. They slept poorly and awoke with a hangover, leaving them with residual stress and unfit for the new challenges that awaited them.



As first responders, we are often the first people to come in contact with a victim of a traumatic experience. This may be an injured motorist from a traffic crash, a concerned family member, or a crime victim to fraud who just lost their life savings. Regardless of how it happened, a person in pain, fear, or panic is in an "altered state of consciousness." It is at such times that the power of perception is most powerful, and healing suggestions can be spoken to the body and accepted. Left to its own devices, the mind can fixate on the negative experience. But proper guidance from an authority figure, like a police officer, can help the victim become calm and heal.

Basic Verbal First-Aid fundamentals include: 1) Building Rapport; 2) Giving Therapeutic Suggestions; 3) Pacing and Leading; and 4) Providing Pain Relief.

victim, even with those who usually don't like authority figures. Be "Compassionate" by listening to the person. Tell them it's OK to talk with you. Make sure your body language demonstrates real "Concern," but in a strong and confident manner. They need your strength.

GIVING THERAPEUTIC SUGGESTIONS:

Let your victim know that the worst is over, that you are there to help, and you won't leave until they are taken care of. In cases of injury, tell them that the ambulance is coming and that the hospital is being made ready for them. Suggestions should be clear, specific but gentle, rich in imagery, reaffirming and appropriate to the age of the victim.

PACING AND LEADING:

If someone is panicking, you can see their breathing and heart rate are fast,

Verbal First Aid: What to Say When Every Moment Counts

BUILDING RAPPORT:

Center yourself and establish authority. They are glad to see someone they can trust. Be sensitive to that and use it to your advantage to help them. "Show Confidence," and you will "Gain Confidence" from the victim. The fact that you are a uniformed police officer may be enough to establish "Credibility" with the

"Pace" them back down to a normal level. Get them to look at you, then start saying: "Breathe with me, calm down, breathe with me, Slow Deep Breaths." Match their breathing then gradually "Lead" them down to a calmer level. If they are bleeding and obviously upset by it, reassure them that it is OK to bleed just enough to clean the wound. Treat their injuries to the best of your abilities in order to "stop" the bleeding.

PROVIDING PAIN RELIEF:

If the victim seems to be in extreme pain, try to focus them elsewhere. Tell them to picture a better place, "Think about something you like doing." Another tactic is asking: "I see that your leg is hurting you, but can you tell me how this part of your body feels?" This acknowledges the victim and the injury, but it is also changes the focus to a part of the body that is obviously not hurt. In order to offer pain relief, you must use guided imagery by changing the focus, help them to step out of time, remind them of their strengths, and help them picture recovery.

A recent study by the National Institute of Justice, "Satisfaction With Police--What Matters?," showed that a citizen's personal experience with police is nearly as important as their personal quality of life and impression of their neighborhood in determining their satisfaction with law enforcement. You can have an enormous healing impact on victims of tragedy by saying the right things and acting the right way – basically, reassuring them of your dedication and commitment, and being their strength at a time of weakness. What will you say when every moment counts? The Michigan State Police First Aid Unit has a Verbal First-Aid training program. For more information, call Sgt. Mike Harvitt at (517) 322-5597.

Credits to Judith Acosta and Judith Simon Prager, authors of "The Worst is Over."

